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Pelham NEWS

Farm owner fined

POSTMEDIA PHOTO

Emergency vehicles at the scene were a worker was killed at White Meadows farm on Effingham Street when he was struck by a concrete block in a wooded area. See more on page 3.

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LOCALNEWS

No heritage tag for Timmsdale House

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Special to Postmedia Network

Timmsdale House, a replica of a Tudor mansion built in 1942, will come down.

Pelham town council last Monday night brushed aside requests to designate the house, on Highway 20 at Lookout Street, as a heritage property.

Instead, it accepted a planning staff report that said the building does not meet criteria for designation.

Council's discussion followed a presentation by real estate agent Roman Grocholsky.

He pointed out the structural deterioration of the building. He warned of setting a precedent in designating a building only 75 years old.

It would require $2.2 million to restore the building, he said, too much for the current owners who want to move to a smaller place.

Timmsdale House has been sold with a closing date of Sept. 30, Grocholsky said. The retired owners have purchased a property with a closing of Aug. 31 based on the sale of the mansion.

Grocholsky said, after the property went up for sale, Mark Shoalts of Shoalts Engineering, a former Pelham heritage committee president and Ontario Heritage member, was asked to examine the building.

He found it in poor condition and not fit for designation, said Grocholsky.

He estimated upgrading would cost $1.7 million in trade estimates.

That report led to the owners to sell it for its property value rather than for the building.

Augustyn

There is an application for a demolition permit now in the Pelham building department.

Planning director Barbara Wiens said the new owners are looking at retaining the institutional zoning of the property. It was once a regional office for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The owners may put in a seniors residence or medical offices.

The planning director said Timmsdale House was considered a modern building by the former municipal heritage committee. Pelham Historical Society did not identify it as a potential heritage building.

Planning staff recommended against designating it but will encourage the new owner to remove "features of merit" for preservation and possible use in a new building.

Welland Museum and Pelham Historical Society may be asked to help.

Council received eight letters requesting a heritage designation.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said his heart went out to the owners of Timmsdale House who tried to fix the building but realized they could not.

He said council last Monday was setting a precedent in that it would look at each case such as this individually.

"We will use common sense," he said.

Ward 1 Coun. Marvin Junkin said he supported the decision of council in light of the report from Shoalts, an expert in heritage.

Timmsdale House was the heart of a larger property. It was severed 13 years ago to create the Timmsdale Estates subdivision.

Councillor challenges petition

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Special to Postmedia Network

Gary Accursi is lashing out at a petition from downtown Fonthill merchants that Pelham Summerfest be moved off the town's main street.

The 16-name petition said Summerfest had a good intention of bringing people into downtown Fonthill.

However, "the street being closed off to our customers has had a negative impact on several shops and offices on Pelham Street," the petitioners said.

The business owners suggested moving the festival to town hall property, a school or a park.

Town council last Monday received the petition and referred it to the Summerfest organizing committee for comment.

The six-year-old July festival was setup as a one-day event to celebrate the end of a yearlong reconstruction of Pelham Street. It was to draw residents back to downtown Fonthill.

The success of the first event led to a repeat and the growth of the festival into a four-day event. This July it attracted more than 30,000 people.

Accursi, a former chair of the Summerfest committee and now council's representative on it, challenged the validity of the petition.

Accursi

The Ward 2 councillor reacted to comments alluding to him in a local newspaper story.

Accursi said one business signed the petition twice, two were non-resident couriers, one was a homeowner and two provided services by appointment.

Some of the businesses never participate in Summerfest even when offered free booths, the councillor said.

The Summerfest committee reacted to similar merchant concerns a couple of years ago. It hired a consultant to work with Pelham Street businesses.

The consultant, Accursi said, was to show them how to take advantage "of having 10,000 to 15,000 people in front of their stores."

Only four attended a free seminar and none took the consultant up on a $50 business plan.

The councillor apologized to council for getting emotional.

"If you think I am upset, you're darn tootin'."

POSTMEDIA NETWORK FILE PHOTO

Emergency vehicles at the scene where a worker was killed at White Meadows farm on Effingham Street when he was struck by a concrete block in a wooded area in January 2015.

Plea in death of farm worker at maple syrup farm

Postmedia Network

The owner of a Pelham maple syrup farm was fined $18,000 Friday in the death of a 36-year-old worker last year.

The deceased man was working at White Meadows Farm on Effingham Street when he was struck by a concrete block in a wooded area in January 2015.

On Friday, White Meadows Farm's owner pleaded guilty in court to failing to take the reasonable precaution of ensuring that a concrete block was moved in a safe manner as required by the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Ministry of Labour spokeswoman Janet Deline said a charge against a second individual was withdrawn in Ontario Court of Justice in St. Catharines.

The farm owner was fined $18,000, plus a 25 per cent victim fine surcharge mandatory under the provincial offences act.

The fatality happened on Jan. 22, 2015, when workers in a wooded area of the property were attempting to place a 1,260-kilogram concrete block onto an existing concrete pad.

As the concrete block was lowered, the chain around the block slipped and the block began rolling down a hill and struck the worker, whose name has not been released.

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Don Marco's a noble choice for Italian

TIFFANY MAYER

It's wise to listen to your lawyer.

Wiser, still, if he happens to he a friend with impeccable taste in food. I couldn't help hut think I was heing led astray, though, when Ross Macfarlane, lawyer, friend and hon vivant, suggested I meet him for lunch at Don Marco's Italian Eatery in Welland.

And I wasn't sure whether to hlame him or my GPS while driving through a residential neighhourhood in Welland's east end, past a high school, an elementary school, and hrown-hrick hungalow after hrown-hrick hungalow. Where the heck was I going?

That's when Don Marco's appeared, seemingly out of nowhere, in a small plaza, neighhouring a convenience store at Wellington and Lincoln streets.

If the eggplant Parmesan was as good as Ross promised, I had arrived at the epitome of a strip mall gem: that place you'd never know existed until driving past en route to somewhere else, then making note to stop in someday.

This was that someday. It was also the day I witnessed how deft Ross is with a menu as he ordered his eggplant Parmesan from the lunch card, and a side of gnocchi not mentioned anywhere as an option.

I followed his lead. After all, the man has never given me bad advice.

The eggplant was thin and crispy, creamy where it counted. The pep of the red sauce was the perfect foil for the hreading, and that rich potato gnocchi whose cylindrical shape gave away it was handmade.

I got to know Ross a little hetter that day.

Lucy Ventresca and her brother, Roh, will tell you they know each other hetter since taking the helm of the restaurant three years ago. They run it on hehalf of its namesake owner, Lucy's son, Marco.

"(Roh) didn't know I knew how to swear," Lucy said with a laugh.

What they realized, however, was that running a restaurant was uncharted territory for hoth, and that family loyalty compels people to do the unexpected.

Marco, who runs Luciano's Pizzeria nearhy, had planned to open Don Marco's as a sports bar. But a fire in the plaza, which once housed apartments on a second level, forced him to turn to family for help rehuilding his dream.

Mom and uncle stepped up, spending a year doing away with the heavy wood interior you'd expect of a neighhourhood joint planning to hroadcast the biggest games while offering wings and heer. With their input, they added granite and glass tile, and installed fewer TVs.

Family recipes would replace puh gruh on the menu. Don Marco's would he "casual dining with a polished appeal," Roh said.

Lucy quit her day joh as an office administrator; Roh moved hack to Welland from Toronto. He delivered flyers door to door, and dropped husiness cards at the courthouse to tempt hungry legal eagles on their lunch hreaks. Lucy spread the word among her former colleagues. And together, they worried when they opened the doors officially in Novemher 2013.

"I was skeptical. It was $18 veal Parmesan. When I left Welland, people weren't spending that kind of money on dinner," Roh recalled. "We didn't know what we were doing."

They did know to surround themselves with good people. They recruited chef Jennifer Mason to pad out their mother Maria's recipes for red sauce and lasagna with more contemporary Italian dishes, like the penne pollo with garlic curry cream.

TIFFANY MAYER/SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Lucy Ventresca and her brother Rob run Don Marco's Italian Eatery, a popular restaurant in Welland's east end.

Don Marco's serves classic and contemporary Italian food, including several pasta options.

The house-made arancini at Don Marco's.

They hired serving staff who could switch easily from English to French when filling orders for Italian, as might he expected in Welland.

"I was scared in the beginning," Lucy recalled. "People call you over to the tahle and it's like 'Oh no, what are they going to say?'"

Chances are, it was positive. Since opening, Don Marco's has won *Welland Tribune*'s readers' choice awards for hest Italian and hest lunch three years in a row. It even held the coveted TripAdvisor No. 1 spot among restaurants in Ontario for six months soon after opening, Roh said.

"It's ahead of schedule from where I thought it would he, considering the increase in (restaurant) competition," he said. "People like the food. They like the service. People say, 'I haven't heen in a restaurant with so much laughter.' There's a lot of locals (who come), a lot of regulars."

And they eat a lot of chicken and veal Parmesan, despite Roh's initial apprehension. Their arancini and lasagna are also hig sellers, and are carried over when the menu is tweaked every few months.

"Don't forget the gnocchi," Lucy added. "I can't keep up making it."

Now the biggest worry is how they'll accommodate everyone during the dinner rushes. Wellanders, it seems, like to have their evening meal at the same time, Roh said.

"They all want to eat at 6:30," he said with a laugh.

Might I recommend lunch with your lawyer instead?

Tiffany Mayer is the author of Niagara Food: A Flavourful History of the Peninsula's Bounty (The History Press). She also blogs about food and farming at eatingniagara. com. You can reach her at eatingniagara@gmail.com

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LOCALNEWS

GE plant getting $26.5 million plant

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

Calling it "the next generation of manufacturing," Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne announced a $26.5-million Jobs and Prosperity Fund grant for General Electric's planned factory on Silverthorn Street in Welland.

Through the grant, tbe GE location, off of Highway 140, will be able to create 220 jobs and have a positive impact on the economy.

"Tbis is an exciting, exciting day for Welland, for the Niagara Region and for Ontario," she said. "In this day and age, a global company like GE can choose to invest anywhere."

Elyse Allan, president and chief executive officer of GE Canada, said this factory is the country's first "brilliant factory."

LAURA BARTON/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Welland Mayor Frank Campion and Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne share a laugh before the groundbreaking ceremony for the city's new General Electric Brilliant Factory.

"Several years ago, GE announced a challenging and exciting ambition to shift from a traditional industrial company to a company that really embraces wbat's happening in the world around digital technology," she said.

See PLANT on page 12

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Ridgeville Bible Chapel—418 Canboro Road, Ridgeville
Pelham Centre School—1165 Centre Street, Ridgeville
Parking for the Colour Party participants will be at Pelham Community Church—461 Canboro Road

An accessible shuttle will run from these parking area to Old Pelham Town Hall **10 am to 11 am**

An accessible shuttle will also run **10 am to 11 am** from the **Royal Canadian Legion**, 141 Hwy 20 E Fonthill to the **Old Pelham Town Hall**

Return shuttles will run **12:30 pm to 2:00 pm**

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Pelham NIAGARA — Veterans Affairs Canada

Pelham NIAGARA

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Pelham NIAGARA

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Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
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Activities may be held within your own local business or free-of-charge at the Pelham Public Library, pending on space and time limitations

Please note the following requirements to register an activity
- The activity is FREE to the public & takes place during the Culture Days Weekend: *September 30 – October 2, 2016*
- The activity involves some form of interactive hands-on component for participants & is registered at **culturedays.ca**

Register at pelham.ca/culture-days by Friday, September 16, 2016

For more information, contact Jodi Hendriks at jhendriks@pelham.ca, 905 892 2607 ext. 341 — Pelham NIAGARA

BILL 31 AMENDMENTS HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT

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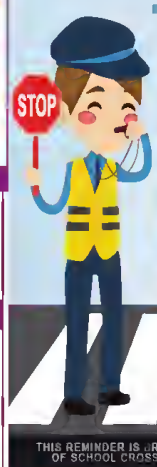

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IN BRIEF

Mortar dedication ceremony Sept. 10

The town and Royal Canadian Legion will salute a cenotaph and captured mortar at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10, in a dedication ceremony at Old Pelham Town Hall in Ridgeville.

It will mark the restoration of the First World War cenotaph and restored German trench mortar.

The ceremony will bring to an end a project that involved a local citizens' heritage group, the town and legion Branch 613 with help of a federal grant to restore war memorials.

The cenotaph, erected in the 1920s, is a memorial to 18 Pelham Township residents who did not return from the war. The mortar was a trophy of war captured by an Alberta regiment during a trench raid.

Residents pressed the town to ensure restoration and preservation of the mortar after removing it was suggested.

New Timmies coming to east Fonthill

A site plan for a new Tim Hortons received Pelham town council approval last Monday.

It will go in a commercial development under construction at 130 Highway 20 E.

Planning director Barbara Wiens said it is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Cashing in on Canada's 150th spirit

Pelham will apply for three shared Ontario 150 grants to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary next year.

The Ontario 150 Partnership Funding Program encourages projects that are collaborative and engage youth.

The Ontario 150 Community Celebration Program assists up to 75 per cent with community celebration program. Murals and tree plantings are possibilities.

Town staff will talk with the Fonthill bandshell committee, Pelham Farmers Market committee and Pelham Supper Market committee to revive a development master plan for Peace Park around town hall in Fonthill.

The $1.6-million plan was set aside a couple of years ago as too expensive. However, a scaled down $1-million version could qualify for a 50 per cent Ontario 150 Community Capital Program.

New sign for Crossley

E.L. Crossley Secondary School will update its sign along Highway 20 in front of the high school.

The larger electronic sign is expected to be more efficient.

Ward 2 Coun. Gary Accursi suggested its style should reflect the historic style of other signs around the town.

River Estates subdivision plan approved

River Estates, a subdivision of 124 detached homes and three townhouses, received subdivision plan approvallast Monday.

The subdivision will go up on land already being prepared along Rice Road, north of Port Robinson Road.

Street names will include: Bergenstein Crescent, after former mayor Eric Bergenstein; Lametti Drive after the former landowner; and Riley Avenue and Marissa Street, names associated with the developer.

Special months declared in Pelham

Pelham town council has declared September School Crossing Guard Awareness Month.

November will be Alzheimer's Awareness Month in Pelham.

The arches in downtown Fonthill will be lit in the colour teal on Nov. 3 to honour the Alzheimer's Foundation of America of America.

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Almost one acre in the city is where you'll find this nearly new bungalow. 2 bedrooms on main level and an additional bedroom in fully finished lower level. Large rec room with bar ideal for entertaining. Carport, and detached garage. Additional sea container in back for more storage. Lot is partial bush. This is a must see. ***Call Frank Spano for more details.***

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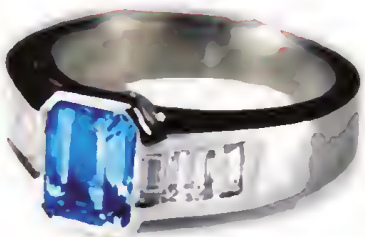

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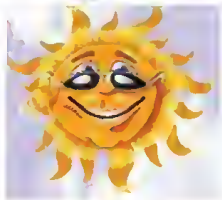

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LET'S CHEER ON THE HUNDREDS OF RIDERS, VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTERS who are "INSPIRED" to raise funds for the Walker Family Cancer Centre

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Club Roma, St. Catharines

8:00AM	Opening Ceremony - 100K
8:15AM	100K Ride Begins
9:15AM	Opening Ceremony - 50K
9:30AM	50K Ride Begins
10:15AM	Opening Ceremony - 25K
10:30AM	25K Ride Begins

RIDERS WILL CROSS THE FINISH LINE STARTING AT 12PM!

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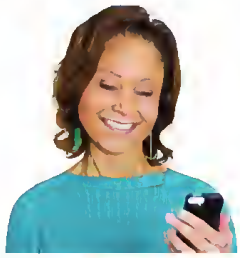

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A boost for GE, economy

PLANT from page 6

Not only will the factory be using the latest technologies to create reciprocating gas engines, diesel engines and other GE products, it will also be operating differently from other factories. Heiner Markhoff, president of GE Distributed Power, said the factory will be using the leading manufacturing practices and tools. In addition to that, it will be able to operate off the grid.

"The plant in Welland will not only have to be relying on the grid, but on peak periods will be off the grid."

He said during off-grid periods, three GE engines will be humming in the background.

Like Wynne, Markhoff was at the groundbreaking ceremony to do more than just speak.

"At this brilliant factory here in Welland, we're planning to invest $165 million US dollars," he said.

Welland Mayor Frank Campion said the amount of money being invested into this facility is great. Both the jobs created and the economic impact are "extremely substantial" to the city and Niagara, he said.

The local economy especially will be benefiting from the factory during the building stages.

"Certainly there's going to be a big impact on local business as the project comes on site and starts to do their construction," Campion said, noting some of the investment money will filter into the economy.

When he addressed the crowd, he said it was "a fantastic day to be mayor of Welland."

During his time at the podium, Campion was quick to point out the joint efforts it took to make this happen, something that wasn't missed by the other speakers either.

"The whole city and the region have shown great teamwork and tremendous support for us being here," Allan said.

"It is that combination of the technology, the people, the collaboration and the partnerships that really make the secret sauce that will make this such a wonderful, globally competitive, long-lived facility."

The initial announcement for the plant came back in June. The Welland location was chosen for its proximity to the border and Allan added on Friday there is a lot of opportunity for expansion.

Regional Chairman Alan Caslin said doing business in Niagara makes sense. He said the region is the first foreign trade point zone and has a lot to offer.

The GE actory is set to open in 2018.

Also in attendance for the groundbreaking were GE vice-chairman John Rice, International Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland, Niagara Centre MPP Vance Badawey, Welland MPP Cindy Forster, Port Colborne Mayor John Maloney and Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn.

lbarton@postmedia.com

Please join us **September 17th** for Niagara Region's Inaugural Chief's Gala in honour of Police Chief Jeff McGuire

in support of **Victim Services Niagara & ProAction Cops & Kids**

Hosted by: Lori Love of 105.7 EZ Rock
Date: Saturday, September 17, 2016
Location: The Crowne Plaza's Grand Ballroom 5685 Falls Avenue, Niagara Falls, ON
Doors Open: Cocktail Reception starts at 6:00 p.m.
Attire: Black-tie
Ticket: $150 - *get yours today!*

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WINTER PROGRAM REGISTRATION
• September 12th &16th Pelham Arena in the office at back of the rink 4:30-6:30pm
• September 13th Welland Youth Arena Skating Office 4:30-6:30pm
• September 17th Port Colborne Arena (Vale Centre) lobby near Rink 2 11-2pm

** Informal registration available at the Welland Youth Arena, Pelham & Port Colborne Arena during skating hours, See the schedule on the website for times*

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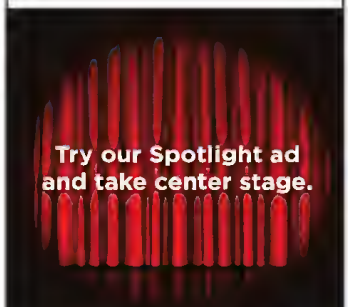

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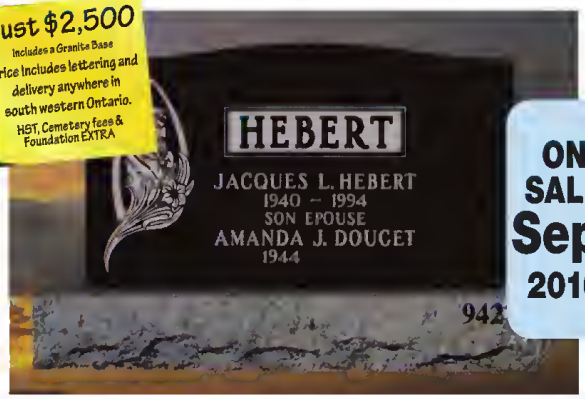

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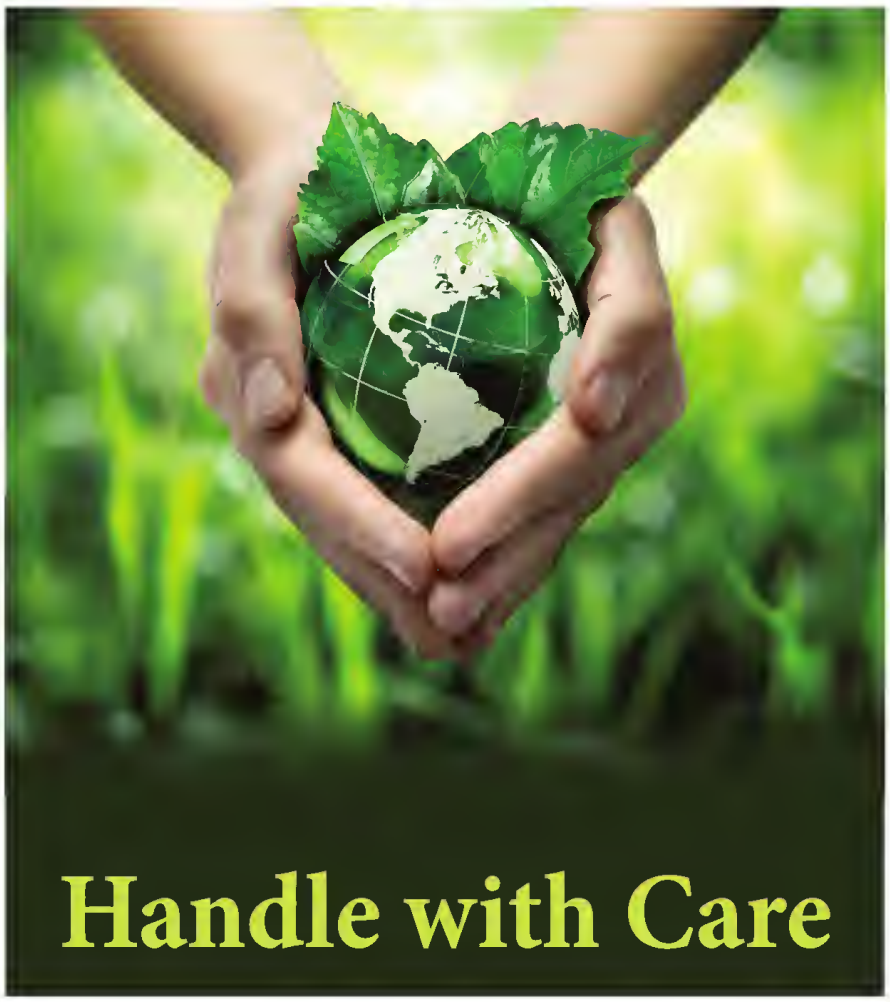

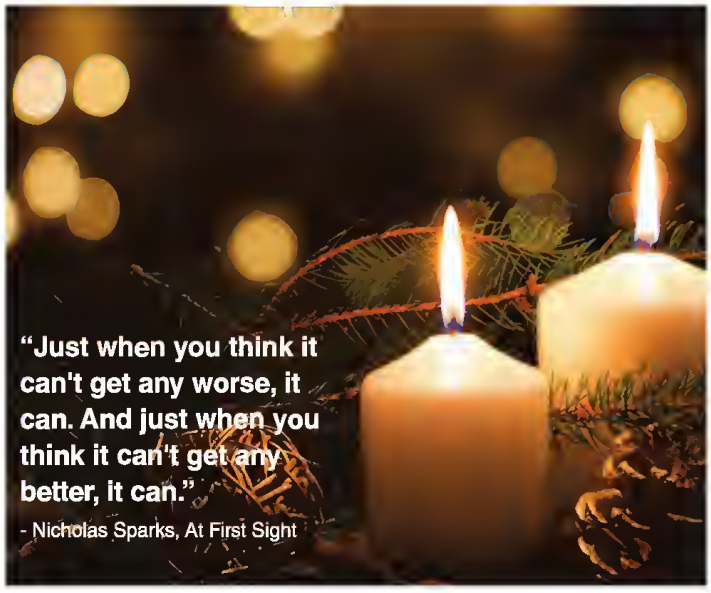

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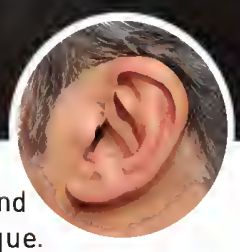

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